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SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES:

Preparatory process for the Conference

THE GATT AND THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Contribution by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) */

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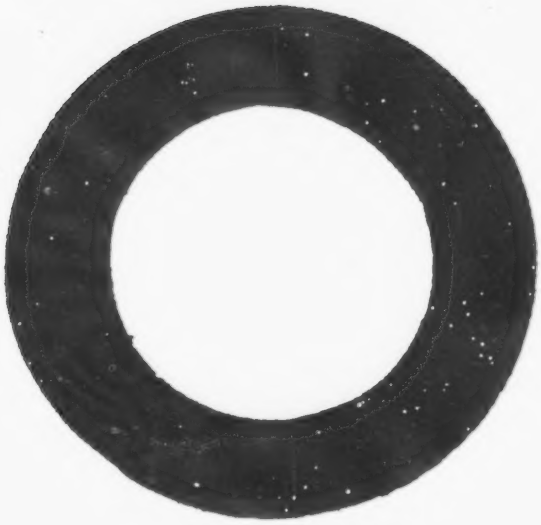

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THE GATT AND THE LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Introduction

1. Least-developed countries form an integral part of the GATT system. At the end of 1988 twenty contracting parties[1] out of the total GATT membership of ninety-six were considered least-developed countries; nine others applied the General Agreement on a de facto basis, while a further seven countries had a working relationship with the GATT. The trade of these contracting parties is subject to the multilateral rules and principles of the GATT and the rights and obligations arising therefrom. However, while specific GATT measures in favour of the least-developed countries can be traced to the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations, developing countries, including the least-developed among them, have always enjoyed a special status within the GATT system. Certain provisions of the General Agreement are applied with flexibility with regard to these countries; and certain special benefits are incorporated in a number of GATT Articles, e.g. Article XVIII dealing with commercial policy measures taken as governmental assistance to economic development, Article XXVIII dealing with tariff negotiations, and Part IV (Articles XXXVI - XXXVIII) dealing with the trade and development of developing countries. Moreover, in the application of various GATT provisions, it is expressly recognized that the contributions and obligations of developing countries are related to their individual development, financial and trade needs. The least developed countries have fully benefited from all the special actions taken in favour of developing countries within the GATT.

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[1] The following least-developed countries are contracting parties to GATT, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Gambia, Haiti, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Union of Myanmar. Least-developed countries applying the GATT on a de facto basis are: Cape Verde Islands, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kiribati, Mali, Mozambique, Sao Tomé and Principe, Yemen Democratic Republic and Tuvalu.

SECTION I

THE TOKYO ROUND AND ITS AFTERMATH

2. The origin of specific GATT actions in favour of the least-developed countries can be traced to the launching of the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations in 1973. The Ministerial Declaration which preceded the negotiations recognized the importance of the application of differential measures providing for special and more favourable treatment to developing countries in areas of the negotiations where this was feasible and appropriate. It further recognized the particular situation and problems of the least-developed countries and stressed the need to ensure special treatment of these countries in the context of any general or specific measures in favour of developing countries.

3. The negotiations resulted in the conclusion of agreements providing for tariff concessions including those on a wide-range of tropical products, a series of agreements dealing with non-tariff measures and certain agricultural products as well as certain decisions and understandings with respect to the legal framework of the GATT. In the area of tariffs, concessions both on m.f.n. and GSP bases covered agricultural and manufactured products of export interest to least-developed countries.

4. One of the most notable results of the Tokyo Round from the point of view of least-developed countries concerned the agreements relating to the framework for the conduct of international trade especially in the section dealing with differential and more favourable treatment, reciprocity and fuller participation of developing countries, the so-called Enabling Clause. This Clause which is a derogation from the m.f.n. principle enshrined in Article I of the General Agreement provides the legal framework within the GATT system for the provision of differential and more favourable treatment to developing countries without according such treatment to other contracting parties. Thus, notwithstanding the provisions of Article I of the General Agreement, contracting parties may

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accord special treatment to developing countries, including the least-developed among them in the context of any general or specific measures in favour of developing countries, without according such treatment to other contracting parties (paragraphs 1 and 2(a)). Differential and more favourable treatment may be granted to developing countries, in respect of (i) tariff preferences accorded under the GSP; (ii) non-tariff measures governed by agreements mutually negotiated under the auspices of the GATT; (iii) exchanges of tariff and, under certain conditions, non-tariff preferences among developing countries in the framework of regional or global trade and economic cooperation arrangements; and (iv) special treatment for the least-developed countries in the context of any general or specific measures in favour of developing countries. Developed contracting parties undertake to exercise, in accordance with the provisions of the Enabling Clause, "the utmost restraint in seeking any concessions or contributions from least-developed countries for commitments made by them to reduce or remove tariffs and other barriers to the trade of the least-developed countries". Furthermore, these countries "shall not be expected to make concessions or contributions that are inconsistent with the recognition of their particular situation and problems".

5. The Enabling Clause thus not only provides the legal basis within the GATT generally for the differential and more favourable treatment of the least-developed countries but also further elaborates the concept of non-reciprocity with regard to those countries in GATT negotiations of concessions or contributions.

Agreements on non-tariff measures

6. The Tokyo Round Agreements on non-tariff measures[1] contain provisions on special and differential treatment for developing countries. As indicated below, some non-tariff measure agreements also incorporate specific objectives, understandings and commitments relevant to the interests of least-developed countries.

7. In the agreement on Government procurement, Article III on special and differential treatment for developing countries enjoins the parties to the Agreement to take due account of the development, financial and trade needs of developing countries, in particular of the least-developed countries, when they implement and administer the Agreement. It is recognized that least-developed countries and other developing countries need to safeguard their balance-of-payments positions, promote the establishment or development of domestic industries, support industrial units wholly or substantially dependent on government procurement, and encourage development through regional or global economic and trade cooperation among developing countries. Developed country parties to the Agreement undertake to provide all technical assistance which they may deem appropriate to developing country parties in resolving their problems in the field of government procurement (Article III:8). Special treatment for least-developed countries is provided for in Article III:11 and 12. Such treatment shall be granted to least-developed country parties and to

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[1] Six agreements on non-tariff measures were concluded; they were the Agreement on Technical Barriers to trade; (ii) Agreement on Government Procurement; (iii) Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Duties; (iv) Agreement on Customs Valuation; (v) Agreement on Import Licencing Procedures; and (vi) Agreement on Anti-Dumping Practices. Many of these agreements were meant to clarify and elaborate on the implementation of specific Articles of the General Agreement. At the end of 1988 four least-developed countries have accepted or become signatories to a few of the agreements and one of the objectives of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations is to review the agreements with a view, inter alia, to facilitating the adherence of more developing countries.

suppliers in these countries, having regard to paragraph 6 of the Tokyo Declaration, in the procurement of products originating in these countries. Benefits under the Agreement may also be afforded to least-developed countries which are not parties to the Agreement. Paragraph 12 provides that developed country parties shall, upon request, provide certain forms of technical assistance which they may deem appropriate to least-developed countries.

8. The United States indicated in 1981 that it was making available the code benefits to least-developed countries which are not Parties to the Agreement. Canada also announced in the course of 1981 its intention to extend unilaterally the benefits of the Agreement to a number of least-developed countries. Similarly, the EEC decided in January 1983 to extend the benefits of the Agreement to least-developed countries. Most other developed countries do so on a de facto basis. Over the years, a number of developed countries have declared their readiness to consider requests for technical assistance from developing countries, and especially from the least-developed countries designed to enlarge possibilities for deriving concrete advantages from the operation of the Agreement.

9. The provision of special and differential treatment for developing countries in the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade is the subject of Article 12 of the Agreement and of provisions in other articles. Article 11:8, for example, states that priority shall be given to the needs of least-developed countries in making available advice and technical assistance in connection with the various provisions of the Agreement. The parties, under Article 12, agree to take into account the special needs of developing countries, including the need to remove barriers to their exports, when they prepare and apply technical regulations, standards, test methods and certification systems and determine the degree to which standards in developing countries are in conformity with international standards established under the Agreement. The Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade would as appropriate grant to developing country signatories time-limited exceptions in whole or in part from obligations

under the Agreement. The Committee would take particular account of the special problems of the least-developed countries.

10. Technical assistance given to developing countries, under the Agreement, by developed countries parties to it has covered: arranging seminars for developing countries with a view to helping participants to find solutions to standardization problems in their own countries; developing various technical cooperation schemes to promote standardization, quality control and certification management; carrying out specific standards, research projects and technical evaluations; as well as the organization of workshops and training courses on standardization and measurement services and seminars on metrology and standardization.

11. Least-developed countries can benefit from the special provisions in Part III of the Code on Subsidies and Countervailing Duties which are designed to give developing country signatories more flexibility in the use of specified categories of subsidies to provide assistance to industries including those in the export sector. It shall not be presumed that export subsidies granted by a developing country signatory adversely affect the trade and production of another signatory in the manner specified in the Code. Adverse effects may only be established through an economic examination of the impact of specific subsidies.

12. Recognition is given in the Revised GATT Anti-Dumping Code to the special situation of developing countries. Signatories have undertaken to explore possibilities for constructive remedies contained in the Code before they impose anti-dumping measures which would affect the essential interests of developing countries. The Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices, having regard to the special situation of developing countries, has adopted decisions concerning the application and interpretation of the Agreement in relation to such countries when considering the application of anti-dumping measures. It also agreed on procedures for facilitating application of the relevant provisions of the Anti-Dumping Code by developing countries.

13. With respect to the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, the preamble recognizes the need to take into account the particular development, financial and trade needs of developing countries. In connection with the provision of all relevant information concerning non-automatic import licensing, Article 3(b)(iv), states that developing countries would not be expected to take additional administrative or financial burdens on this account. With respect to ensuring a reasonable distribution of licences to new importers, the Agreement provides in Article 3(1) that special consideration should be given to those importers importing products originating in developing countries, and, in particular, the least-developed countries.

14. Certain agreements covering agricultural products, such as the Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat, acknowledge the special importance to the economies of certain developing countries of trade in the items they cover, for example, bovine meat and live animals. Certain of these products are important exports of some least-developed countries.

SECTION II

POST-TOKYO ROUND ACTIVITIES AND THE LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries

15. One of the major institutional results of the Tokyo Round, from the point of view of developing countries was the strengthening of the role of the Committee on Trade and Development on the basis of its expanded terms of reference which included "special attention to the problems of least-developed countries". In furtherance of its strengthened mandate, the Committee on Trade and Development decided in July 1980 to create a Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries with the following terms of reference:

> "In the light of paragraph 6 of the Tokyo Declaration, to give special attention to the particular situation and trade problems of the least-developed among the developing countries in GATT's work programme following the Tokyo Round, including that relating to the results of the multilateral trade negotiations, and to keep under review the special treatment which could be accorded these countries in the context of any general or specific measures taken in favour of developing countries."

16. The Sub-Committee agreed at its first meeting in November 1980 on the need to identify practical, direct and realistic measures to deal with the trade problems facing least-developed countries, while recognizing that trade was but one element in the problems related to the particular situation and development prospects of least-developed countries. It was noted that the Sub-Committee would be a useful focal point for keeping under review activities of interest to least-developed countries taking place in various GATT committees and bodies, as well as in other international institutions. The Sub-Committee would in particular serve as a forum for addressing the trade problems of the least-developed countries which lent themselves to practical consideration and action in the GATT.

17. The Sub-Committee's original work programme comprised: (a) review of developments in international trade of relevance to the trade of least-developed countries; (b) review of measures taken in favour of least-developed countries; (c) possibilities of further action to promote the export interests of the least-developed countries; (d) review of technical assistance by the GATT secretariat; and (e) other matters. The work programme has subsequently been modified to take into consideration decisions resulting from the GATT Ministerial Meeting of November 1982.

(i) Review of developments in international trade of relevance to the trade of least-developed countries

18. This review has been conducted on the basis of a secretariat note highlighting the main features of the trade and payments situation of the least-developed countries with emphasis on their balance-of-payments situation and the evolution in international commodity prices of interest to them.

(ii) Review of measures taken in favour of least-developed countries[1]

19. On the basis of measures notified to the secretariat as well as information gathered by the secretariat on its own initiative, the Sub-Committee carries out reviews of trade policy measures taken in favour of least-developed countries by other contracting parties. This review operates without prejudice to any overall review of the operation of the Enabling Clause by the Committee on Trade and Development dealing specifically with the interests of least-developed countries.

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[1] Some of the main trade measures taken in recent years in favour of the least-developed countries by contracting parties are attached to this paper as Annex I.

(iii) Give consideration to the export interest of the least-developed-countries

20. In order to focus attention on the problems of access to markets facing products of export interest to the least-developed countries, the secretariat periodically prepares, for the meetings of the Sub-Committee, statistical trade and tariff data relating to the principal exports of individual least-developed countries to the main developed country and regional markets. Non-tariff measures affecting these products are also treated. The objective of this exercise has been not only to identify tariff and non-tariff barriers affecting exports of least-developed countries but also to explore possibilities for further trade liberalization on their behalf.

(iv) Review of technical assistance by the GATT secretariat

21. The GATT secretariat and its Technical Cooperation Division in particular provides, upon request, technical assistance to developing countries including the least-developed among them. At the meetings of the Sub-Committee opportunity is provided for delegations to offer comments and suggestions with respect to this work in the light of the particular interests of the least-developed countries.[1]

22. With the creation of the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries, the GATT was thus provided with an institutional framework for focussing attention on the special trade problems of the least-developed countries.

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[1] A detailed description of the technical cooperation activities of the GATT of interest to the least-developed countries are given in another section of this paper.

Ministerial Meeting (1982) and the work of the Sub-Committee

23. At the meeting of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade held at Ministerial level between 24-29 November 1982, a number of broad policy decisions were adopted, intended to provide further guidelines in drawing-up the work programme and priorities for the 1980's. Among these, was the undertaking by contracting parties individually and jointly:

> "to ensure special treatment for the least-developed countries in the context of differential and more favourable treatment for developing countries, in order to ameliorate the grave economic situation of these countries."

Regarding "GATT Rules and Activities Relating to Developing Countries" the CONTRACTING PARTIES urged contracting parties, among other things:, "to work towards further improvement of GSP or MFN treatment for products of particular export interest to least-developed countries, and the elimination or reduction of non-tariff measures affecting such products".

24. The CONTRACTING PARTIES made the following decisions, and agreed to review actions taken in implementing them at their 1984 session; they

> "Invited contracting parties to pursue action as follows towards facilitating the trade of least-developed countries and reducing tariff and non-tariff obstacles to their exports;
>
> (a) further improve GSP or m.f.n. treatment for products of particular export interest to least-developed countries, with the objective of providing fullest possible duty-free access to such products;
>
> (b) use, upon request and where feasible, of more flexible requirements for rules of origin for products of particular export interest to least-developed countries;

(c) eliminate or reduce non-tariff measures affecting products of particular export interest to least-developed countries;

(d) facilitate the participation of least-developed countries in MTN Agreements and Arrangements;

(e) strengthen the technical assistance facilities of the GATT secretariat targeted to the special requirements of least-developed countries;

(f) strengthen trade promotion activities, through the ITC and other initiatives, such as by encouraging the establishment of import promotion offices in importing countries;

(g) give more emphasis to the discussion and examination of policy issues of interest to least-developed countries in the context of further efforts to liberalize trade."

Implementation of the Ministerial Decisions

25. At its Forty-Ninth Session in May 1983, the Committee on Trade and Development accepted a proposal that the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries should (a) monitor the implementation of those aspects of the Ministerial Declaration which concern the least-developed countries, and (b) hold consultations between interested least-developed countries and their respective trading partners on issues related to their development and export interests including the examination of barriers to their trade and any relevant commercial policy matters. The Sub-Committee subsequently established a new programme of work which included the organization of ad hoc consultations between individual least-developed countries and their trading partners. Ad hoc consultations were held with Bangladesh in November 1983; with the United Republic of Tanzania in October 1984 and with the Republic of Sudan in October 1985. These consultations have been preceded by thorough preparatory work by the

secretariat including the sending of technical missions to the countries concerned.

26. During the consultations, which are also attended by observers from various international organizations, members of the Sub-Committee have had the opportunity to discuss some of the major trade and development problems facing the least-developed countries concerned. Developed countries to whom specific requests have been addressed for the liberalization and facilitation of trade have also had the opportunity to respond to these requests. The programme of consultations also provides for follow-up on previous consultations. The programme has been considered very useful by both the least-developed countries and their trading partners and although no consultations have been organized since 1985 it is the intention of the Sub-Committee to reactivate the programme in the future.

27. At the Sixth Meeting of the Sub-Committee in October 1984, the Chairman stressed, inter alia, the need to consider how best to give practical effect to the decisions and intentions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of November 1982. Concluding the discussions on this item the Chairman remarked that members of the Sub-Committee had indicated a general desire that further measures be taken in the trade field to promote the trade interests of the least-developed countries. He included in his summary the following proposals, including his own which were made in the course of the discussions and generally based on the decisions annexed to the Ministerial Declaration.

(i) countries which have not yet given special treatment to the least-developed countries within their GSP schemes should do so on a complete duty-free and quota-free basis for all products of export interest to them;

(ii) those contracting parties already according special status to the least-developed countries with certain exceptions and limitations especially on textiles, jute and a number of

agricultural products remove such exceptions and limitations and grant duty- and quota-free access;

(iii) all special measures such as competitive-need criteria which might erode the full value of GSP schemes be waived in favour of the least-developed countries;

(iv) where necessary simple duty and quota-free systems of imports of hand-made products from the least-developed countries be established by developed contracting parties;

(v) priority should be given to the least-developed countries in the provision of technical assistance at both national and international levels with regard to quality, technical standards and phytosanitary requirements;

(vi) exemption of least-developed countries from quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures falling outside the scope of MTN Agreements should be considered;

(vii) with regard to the application of rules of origin relating to GSP and LDC treatment the following possibilities could be considered: (a) simplification of rules of origin in favour of least-developed countries, (b) adoption of liberal cumulative origin rules in favour of least-developed countries, and (c) a generally more liberal and differential application of rules of origin in favour of least-developed countries.

After a first discussion in the Sub-Committee in the course of 1985 the proposals were forwarded for further consideration in the Committee on Trade and Development.

I. Activities, in other GATT Bodies, of relevance to the Least-Developed Countries

28. Apart from specific GATT actions in favour of least-developed countries, these countries, as members of the wider community of developing countries, are covered by the programme of work entrusted to the Committee on Trade and Development concerning the implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement, the operation of the Enabling Clause regarding differential and more favourable treatment for developing countries, and the implementation of the decisions on developing countries made at the Ministerial Meeting of 1982, including the elimination of barriers to trade in tropical products.

29. The programme of work has involved, inter alia, the conduct of consultations with contracting parties individually or collectively, as appropriate, to examine how individual contracting parties have responded to the requirements of Part IV and the Enabling Clause. Consultations were held in 1984 and 1985 with the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden and Finland), Australia, Austria, Hungary, Canada, United States, EEC, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland and the ALADI countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay). The consultations proved to be valuable in promoting a further understanding of trade policies and measures adopted in the light of Part IV, as well as of problems and difficulties still faced by developing countries in their trade.

30. They touched upon many important issues which relate to major aspects and objectives of trade policies of individual contracting parties, including the promotion of economic efficiency and growth, the protection of essential domestic interests in specific areas of concern, such as agriculture or particular industrial sectors, arrangements to promote regional integration, differential treatment in favour of developing countries, including modifications in GSP schemes, and trade liberalization efforts, including those amongst developing countries themselves.

31. They provided consulting countries with the possibility of presenting their overall approach to trade policies as they relate to developing countries and to describe how specific measures adopted by them respond to Part IV of the General Agreement.

II. Tropical Products

32. Under the GATT Work Programme adopted after the conclusion of the Tokyo Round negotiations in 1979, the Committee on Trade and Development was given the mandate to "work on trade policy and development policies including trade liberalization in areas of special interest to developing countries". At a meeting of the Committee in 1980 "tropical products" were identified as one of the areas which should be dealt with on a priority basis.

33. The work of the Committee concerning tropical products proceeded on a step-by-step basis, culminating in the holding of plurilateral consultations on 1-30 March 1982 with respect to six product groups. At its meeting held soon after the 1982 consultations, the Committee agreed that there was scope for further work in this area, with a view to seeking means of further liberalizing trade in products of interest to developing countries.

34. At their session held at Ministerial level in November 1982 the CONTRACTING PARTIES decided "to carry out, on the basis of the work programme pursued by the Committee on Trade and Development, consultations and appropriate negotiations aimed at further liberalization of trade in tropical products, including in their processed and semi-processed forms, and to review the progress achieved in eliminating or reducing existing obstacles to trade in tropical products at their 1984 Session". (L/5424)

35. Pursuant to the above Decision and an agreement reached by the Committee for the implementation of the Decision, two rounds of consultations took place on tropical products on 7-11 November 1983 and 2-4 May 1984. The seven groups of products covered in the consultations

were: tropical beverages(coffee, tea and cocoa); tropical fruits and nuts; certain oilseeds, vegetable oils and oilcakes; tropical roots, rice and tobacco; jute and hard fibres; spices, flowers, plaiting products etc.; natural rubber and tropical wood. Many of these products are of major importance to many least-developed countries, not only as foreign exchange earners, but also in terms of their contribution to GDP and to employment. At the completion of the programme of consultations it was decided that contracting parties should examine how best to proceed with work in this area bearing in mind the need to enter into "appropriate negotiations" as envisaged in the Ministerial Decision. Liberalization of trade in this sector has become one of the priority objectives in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations launched in 1986.

III. Natural Resource Products

36. Another area of GATT activity of interest to least-developed countries concerns the work on Trade in Certain Natural Resource Products, for which a Working Party was set up in March 1984, pursuant to the 1982 Ministerial Declaration and to the Council's Decision of 20 April 1983, to examine problems falling within the GATT framework relating to tariffs, non-tariff measures, and other factors affecting trade in (a) non-ferrous metals and minerals, (b) forestry products, and (c) fish and fisheries products, including their semi-processed and processed forms with a view to recommending possible solutions. Many least-developed countries have export interest in these products. As in the case with tropical products problems of trade in this sector are covered in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Protocol relating to trade negotiations among developing countries

37. The Protocol is an autonomous preferential trading arrangement negotiated in 1971 within the framework of GATT providing for an exchange of mutually advantageous tariff and trade concessions among the signatories. It entered into force in 1973 and has so far been accepted by eighteen developing countries belonging to various regions of the

developing world. The negotiated tariff concessions annexed to the Protocol are being applied among the participants on a multilateral basis. Pursuant to its paragraph 14, participating countries have stated that they will consider sympathetically, on a case-by-case basis, any request from a least-developed country to accede to the Protocol without negotiations. One least-developed country has taken advantage of this provision in its accession to the Protocol.

The MFA and the least-developed countries

38. The Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles generally known as the Multifibre Arrangement which was extended for a further period from 1 August 1986 to 21 July 1991 contains a provision in its new Protocol indicating that more favourable treatment shall be given to exports from least-developed countries[1], small suppliers and new entrants. The Article in question provides, inter alia, that:

> "Restraints shall not normally be imposed on exports from small suppliers, new entrants and least-developed countries."

39. If circumstances oblige the importing country to introduce restraints on exports from the least-developed countries, the treatment accorded to these countries should be significantly more favourable than that accorded to the other groups referred to in the paragraph, preferably in all its elements but, at least, on overall terms.

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[1]This favourable treatment is applicable only to least-developed countries which are parties to the MFA. Presently these are Bangladesh, Haiti, and the Maldives.

Technical Assistance

40. The special competence of the GATT lies in the regulation of the free flow of international trade and in dealing with the global and specific problems arising therefrom. This tends to limit the scope and nature of the technical assistance which it can furnish. GATT's programme of technical assistance has developed over the years in response to the specific needs of developing countries which have ranged from ad hoc briefing of officials, technical assistance to enable a more effective participation in the GATT and in multilateral trade negotiations, country and regional seminars, to training courses in trade policy for officials.

41. This technical assistance programme first established in 1956 was in the first instance limited to the trade policy courses organized each year by the secretariat for senior officials from developing countries dealing with trade policy with the aim of helping participants acquire a better understanding of trade policy matters and of the GATT and its activities, as well as greater acquaintance with developments in other relevant international bodies. Least-developed countries are regularly represented at these courses.

42. With the commencement of the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations, technical assistance was institutionalized by the establishment in 1974 of a Special Assistance Unit within the GATT secretariat with a mandate "to keep in continuing close touch with delegations of developing countries so as to assist them, individually or collectively, with appropriate information and advise in all relevant aspects of the various problems relating to their preparations for, and participation in, the multilateral trade negotiations".

43. The technical assistance work during the Tokyo Round was based on the individual requirements of developing countries and covered a large number of areas. Data on tariffs, non-tariff measures and trade flows was provided at the request of developing countries to assist them in the negotiations on tropical products, agriculture, tariffs and non-tariff

measures. Information in the form of country studies was also prepared, identifying items of export interest for developing countries in the developed country markets. Assistance was provided by way of information on existing rules, regulations and practices at national and international level to facilitate analysis of the implications of the various draft codes and legal instruments that were being discussed in the Tokyo Round.82

44. At the beginning of 1980 the Special Assistance Unit was transformed into the Technical Cooperation Division of the GATT secretariat which has since then become the focal point for technical cooperation with developing countries and has been providing technical assistance to developing countries in all fields of GATT activity. This has included the preparation of basic and statistical information, briefing of delegations and visiting officials, country and regional seminars on GATT activities, country studies, country missions in connection with the programme of consultations for the least-developed countries, regional trade policy workshops, etc.

45. Since the launching of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations in October 1986 the technical assistance activities of the Technical Cooperation Division have been broadened and intensified. As in the Tokyo Round, technical assistance has covered broad areas including: (a) preparation of country studies in which information is provided upon request of individual developing countries, identifying items of their export interest in different markets and the relevant data on tariff, non-tariff measures and trade flows; (b) provision of general data on tariffs, non-tariff measures and trade flows in respect of various products and product sectors, so as to help developing countries in submitting request lists; (c) preparation of factual background motes on issues of interest to developing countries in the various areas of the negotiations; (d) provision of information on and the organization of workshops on negotiating techniques and rules of procedures employed in the negotiations; (e) periodic briefing of delegations and officials of developing countries especially those with small missions on developments in the different areas of the negotiations, with special emphasis on issues

of interest to developing countries; (f) organization of country and regional seminars and country missions on the Uruguay Round. In all the areas of technical assistance mentioned above special attention has been given to requests for assistance from least-developed countries.

Export promotion activities

46. Apart from the technical assistance activities of the GATT secretariat described above, least-developed countries have benfited largely from the activities of the International Trade Centre which is essentially a trade promotion agency financed jointly by the GATT and UNCTAD. An estimated 30 per cent of its technical cooperation budget is devoted to projects and programmes, in over thirty least-developed countries, especially in areas of trade information, market research, market development, and training.

SECTION III

URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

47. The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations launched in September 1986 with the Ministerial Declaration of Punta del Este is in its scope and level of participation the most ambitious ever undertaken under the auspices of the GATT. Its basic aim is to "bring about a further liberalization and expansion of world trade to the benefit of all countries especially less developed contracting parties...". Its overall outcome is bound to shape the framework, the environment and development of world trade in the 1990s and beyond and could produce substantial direct and indirect benefits for the trade of least-developed countries. The negotiations which are scheduled to end in 1990 and involve over one-hundred countries including all contracting parties are being conducted under two separate captions. On the one hand is the decision of the Contracting Parties meeting at Ministerial level to enter into Multilateral Trade Negotiations on trade in goods within the framework and under the aegis of the GATT and on the other hand the decision by the Ministers meeting in their own capacities and not as Contracting Parties to launch negotiations in trade in services as part of the Multilateral Negotiations. The negotiations on trade in goods are being conducted under the supervision of the Group of Negotiations on Goods (GNG) while the negotiations on trade in services fall under the supervision of the Group of Negotiations on Services (GNS). Both the GNG and GNS have to report to the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) which has the overall mandate to oversee the whole of the negotiations. As stipulated in the Ministerial Declaration the negotiations on trade in goods are covering the following fourteen subjects, each of which, has its own negotiating group:

(i) Tariffs

(ii) Non-Tariff Measures

(iii) Tropical Products
(iv) Natural Resource-Based Products
(v) Textile and Clothing
(vi) Agriculture
(vii) GATT Activities
(viii) Safeguards
(ix) MTN Agreements and Arrangements
(x) Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
(xi) Dispute Settlement
(xii) Trade-Related Aspect of Intellectual Property Rights, Including Trade In Counterfeit Goods
(xiii) Trade-Related Investment Measures
(xiv) Functioning of the GATT System

Negotiating objectives

48. While all the subject areas of the negotiations both in trade in goods and in services are of direct or indirect interest to the least-developed countries, one could single out as areas of special interest to least-developed countries, the negotiations on tariffs, non-tariff measures, tropical products, natural resource-based products, and textiles and clothing. On Tariffs the negotiations aim to reduce or as appropriate eliminate tariffs including the reduction or elimination of high tariffs and tariff escalation. Emphasis is to be given to the expansion of the scope of tariff concessions among all participants. The negotiations on Non-Tariff Measures aim at reducing or eliminating non-tariff measures, including quantitative restrictions. The importance of this area of the negotiations lies in the fact that as tariffs are reduced or eliminated, an array of non-tariff measures have replaced them as major barriers to trade. With regard to Tropical Products which is one sector or particular interest to least-developed countries the negotiations aim at the fullest liberalization of trade including products in their processed and semi-processed forms and cover both tariff and all non-tariff measures affecting trade in these products. In view of the recognition by Contracting Parties of the importance of trade in tropical products to a

large number of developing contracting parties it was agreed that negotiations should receive priority attention, including in the timing of the negotiations and implementation of results, as provided for in Section B(ii) of the Punta del Este Ministerial Declaration on general principles governing the negotiations. On Natural Resource-Based Products the negotiations aim to achieve the fullest liberalization of trade in such products including in their processed and semi-processed forms. They also aim to reduce or eliminate tariff and non-tariff measures including tariff escalation. A number of least-developed countries have a major interest in trade in Textiles and Clothing and in this area the negotiations aim to formulate modalities that would permit the eventual integration of this sector into the GATT legal framework on the basis of strengthened GATT rules and disciplines, thereby also contributing to the objective of further liberalization of trade.

General principles of relevance to least-developed countries governing negotiations

49. It was agreed that differential and more favourable treatment embodied in Part IV and other relevant provisions of the General Agreement and in the Enabling Clause will apply to the negotiations. It was also agreed that developed countries would not expect reciprocity for commitments made by them in trade negotiations to reduce or remove tariffs and other barriers to the trade of developing countries. In other words, developed countries would not expect developing countries, in the course of trade negotiations, to make contributions which are inconsistent with their individual development, financial and trade needs. Even more important to least-developed countries was the agreement reflected in paragraph B(vii) of the general principles governing the negotiations that: "Special attention shall be given to the particular situation and problems of the least-developed countries and to the need to encourage positive measures to facilitate expansion of their trading opportunities. Expeditious implementation of the relevant provisions of the 1982 Ministerial Declaration concerning the least-developed countries shall also be given appropriate attention."

50. With regard to the special interest of the least-developed countries, the Committee on Trade and Development decided at its Sixty-First Session in June 1987 that its Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries should, inter alia, carry out a regular review of issues in the Uruguay Round of particular interest to the least-developed countries in the light of paragraph B(vii) of the general principles governing the negotiations quoted above. In the course of this exercise, the Sub-Committee at its meeting in February 1988 discussed a number of proposals, tabled on behalf of least-developed countries, reflecting their concern to have translated into practical measures the objectives embodied in the Ministerial Declaration. At the meeting of the Sub-Committee in September 1989 additional and more elaborate proposals, some of a general nature and others addressed to individual negotiating groups were tabled for discussion. The proposals aim at the adoption of measures which will provide special treatment in favour of least-developed countries in the various negotiating groups leading to an expansion of their trading opportunities and the more effective implementation of measures already decided on by the Contracting Parties. The proposals were eventually transmitted to the relevant negotiating bodies for further consideration.

Mid-term review and results

51. At its meeting in February 1988 the Trade Negotiations Committee decided that its end-of-year meeting would take place at Ministerial level in Montreal, Canada, during which a mid-term review of the Uruguay Round would be undertaken. The mid-term review which took place from 5-9 December 1988 aimed at (a) taking stock of progress made, and (b) agreeing on the agenda and guidelines for the rest of the negotiations.

52. With regard to the negotiations on tropical products, an area of major importance to least-developed countries, the mid-term review resulted in the conclusion of an early package of concessions on tariff and non-tariff measures offered by the major developed countries and some developing

countries. Some of the concessions were on m.f.n. basis, others were on GSP basis whilst a number were on the basis of special measures for the least-developed countries within GSP schemes. These concessions, most of which are already being implemented, could assist least-developed countries in expanding and diversifying their exports and markets. Negotiations on tropical products will of course continue throughout the Round with a view to improving and expanding the results achieved at Montreal.

53. Other important interim agreements were also reached at Montreal in other areas of the negotiations especially in dispute settlement and the functioning of the GATT system.

54. When successfully concluded the Uruguay Round should lead to the creation of a more liberalized multilateral trading system catering for a growing volume of world trade in goods and services. Special and differential measures already incorporated into the GATT and those which might result from the Round should help least-developed to make more effective use of the new trading opportunities which will emerge as well as to participate more effectively in the multilateral trading system.

ANNEX I

SOME RECENT TRADE POLICY MEASURES IN FAVOUR OF LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

1. The Information below is not exhaustive, but is illustrative of the trade measures taken in recent years in favour of, and of interest to least-developed countries, which have been brought to the attention of the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries or other bodies of the GATT. It does not reflect the concessions negotiated so far on tropical products within the context of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Tariff and non-tariff measures

2. In the last ten years, a number of developed countries have taken special commercial policy measures in favour of the least-developed countries. Most of these actions have taken the form of preferential tariff treatment, often in the framework of GSP schemes or of m.f.n. concessions, while others have been in the area of non-tariff barriers. As of now, fourteen countries and a major regional group of countries have provided specific differential measures in favour of least-developed countries; they are: Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, the EEC, Finland, Hungary, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, United States and Yugoslavia, all of which are contracting parties with the exception of Bulgaria. This note attempts to take stock of the present situation with regard to preferential measures in favour of least-developed countries and does not cover more wide-ranging measures affecting all developing countries.

Austria

3. Austria introduced its special tariff treatment for least-developed countries on 1 January 1982 under the Customs Preference Act 1982. Industrial products (CCCN Chapters 25-99) originating in least-developed countries enjoy, under the Act, duty-free treatment across-the-board except for textiles which are chargeable at 50 per cent of the applicable m.f.n. rates.

4. Imports from least-developed countries of agricultural products (CCCN Chapters 1-24) included in the Austrian GSP scheme enjoy duty-free treatment in most cases. In many other cases a substantially lower preferential rate is applied. In a few other cases however, least-developed countries are subject to originary GSP rates e.g., 06.01B ex 2 - flower tubers; 08.03 - figs; ex08.05 - walnuts, edible chestnuts; ex09.10D - other spices; 11.04 exB - flour of bananas; 18.05 - cocoa powder unsweetened, etc.

5. The Austrian government put into force as of 1 January 1985 the following improvements in its GSP scheme in favour of least-developed countries:

- ex 09.04 - pepper of the genus piper, ground or otherwise crushed - 4 per cent (previously 9 per cent);

- ex 09.09.B1 - seeds of anise, fennel, coriander, cumin, caraway and juniper, ground or otherwise crushed - 2 per cent (previously 4 per cent);

- ex 09.10B - saffron, ground or otherwise crushed - 0 per cent (previously 4 per cent);

- ex 09.10C - ginger, ground or otherwise crushed - 4 per cent (previously 9 per cent).

6. With effect from 1 September 1984 duty-free treatment has been granted to imports of textile handicrafts originating in least-developed countries, which have so far enjoyed only a 50 per cent duty reduction. Under the Austrian handicraft[1] scheme the textile schedule covers twenty-six tariff headings. For the non-textile articles, duty-free treatment is provided for imports from all beneficiary countries.

Canada

7. In December 1982 legislation was passed by the Canadian parliament to provide duty-free entry for all goods eligible for General Preferential Tariff when imported from least-developed countries. An amendment to the General Preferential Tariff Rules of Origin Regulations on 13 January 1983 increased the foreign material content limit on eligible exports from least-developed countries to 60 per cent and allowed for cumulative origin among least-developed countries.

8. In June 1984 parliament approved legislation extending the Canadian General Preferential Tariff for a further ten years to 30 June 1994 and in August an Order in Council amended the rules of origin regulations of the Canadian GSP to allow for the implementation of global cumulative origin among beneficiary countries to meet the content requirements of the Canadian system of tariff preferences on imports from developing countries.

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[1] Handicraft products are defined in Austrian law as products, the major part of which is hand-made; however, the use of machine-made raw materials for the production of handicraft goods is not generally excluded. When using machines or apparatus in the production, only products for which manpower is used as source of power can be classified as handicraft products. The use of other sources of energy, especially hydropower or electric energy, would preclude such classification. It should also be recalled that preferential tariff rates for handicrafts are applied only to imports from the developing countries which have concluded bilateral agreements with Austria to this effect. Least-developed countries which have concluded such an agreement are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Malawi, Nepal and Rwanda.

Czechoslovakia

9. Under the GSP scheme of Czechoslovakia, all imports from least-developed countries are fully exempted from customs duties. By a Decree which entered into force in May 1984 the number of beneficiaries which was then twenty-seven was increased to thirty-two. This has since been increased to forty-two by a Decree which took effect from 1 July 1989.

EEC

10. Since 1981 the EEC has instituted special measures in its GSP scheme in favour of the least-developed countries. All industrial goods covered by the scheme including textiles are admitted duty-free without ceiling or quotas. Similarly all agricultural products imports covered by the scheme are given duty-free treatment, with imports of tobacco and pineapple being subject to quota. In the GSP scheme for 1983 an addition of three hundred and seventy products to the list of agricultural products for which least-developed countries could have duty-free access brought the list to over seven hundred.

11. GSP duty-free treatment for imports of jute and jute products, which had previously been accorded to imports originating in India, Bangladesh and Thailand has been extended to Nepal and other least-developed countries. Similarly, duty-free treatment for coir products imported from India and Sri Lanka has been extended to imports from least-developed countries.

12. In the EEC 1987 GSP scheme for agricultural products, the coverage, with regard to the least-developed countries, was extended to include three more products, namely: frozen strawberries (ex08.10); grape juices (ex20.07); and pineapple juices (ex20.07).

13. The Third Lomé Convention which was signed on 8 December 1984 and came into force on 1 May 1986 for a period of five years links sixty-six countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific with the EEC in a wide

range of cooperation agreements in the fields of trade, commodities, finance, investments, capital movements, establishment and services. Covered by the Convention are thirty-two least-developed countries on the UN list as well as eleven other countries considered least-developed for the purposes of the Convention. The Convention contains, in connection with commercial policy, provisions for preferential treatment (mostly duty-free) for products imported into the EEC from developing country members, as well as provisions for the stabilization of export earnings for an agreed list of agricultural commodities exported to the EEC by ACP countries under the STABEX arrangements[1], special financing facilities for mining products under the SYSMIN arrangement, and special undertakings on rum, bananas, and sugar.

Finland

14. The GSP scheme of Finland includes, since 1 January 1980, special treatment in favour of least-developed countries. Under this treatment certain products which are otherwise not granted GSP treatment are covered by GSP concessions when imported from least-developed countries. The products concerned as on 1 July 1989 were the following:

- ex 07.13 - other leguminous vegetables, than peas and beans, of a kind suitable for human consumption
- ex 08.06 - grapes, fresh
- ex 09.01 - coffee, unroasted, and roasted

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[1]Effective from 1987, the EEC has established a new compensatory payment facility in favour of least-developed countries not signatory to the Lomé Convention III. Similar to the STABEX the COMPEX compensates for shortfalls in export earnings from the export of selected agricultural commodities to the EEC.

-	ex 20.08 -	prepared or preserved fruit mixtures and Brazilian nuts and cashew nuts, roasted
-	ex 21.01 -	coffee extracts
-	41.05 -	sheep and lambskin leather
-	41.06 -	goat and kidskin leather
-	ex 42.02 -	shopping bags made of jute
-	ex 57.02)	carpets with a surface of jute and/or other textile
-	ex 57.03)	bast fibres and/or manila hemps, or of sisal and/or
-	ex 57.05)	other fibres of the agave family
-	62.13 -	handkerchiefs
-	63.04 -	hanging flower pot holders made by macramé-technique
-	69.11 -	tableware, kitchenware, others household articles and toilet articles, of porcelain or china
-	69.12 -	ceramic tableware, kitchenware, other household articles, other than of porcelain or china
-	ex 85.01 -	electric motors designed to be used in dolls
-	ex 85.03 -	parts of electric motors designed to be used in dolls
-	95.02 -	dolls representing only human beings
-	ex 95.05 -	carnival and entertainment articles

15. It may be recalled that under the Finnish GSP scheme, goods eligible for GSP treatment enjoy total exemption from import duties and import levies as well as import quotas, ceilings or other quantitative restrictions. The special treatment in favour of the least-developed countries applies to all countries on the current UN list (1989).

16. Under its GSP scheme Hungary extends a general quota and duty-free treatment to all products imported directly from least-developed countries. This measure which first came into effect on 1 January 1978 and affected twenty-six countries has been extended by subsequent legislations to cover most least-developed countries.

17. Since 1980 imports into Japan of exports from least-developed countries have enjoyed special tariff treatment within the framework of the Japanese GSP scheme. This special treatment currently applies to almost all least-developed countries. By virtue of this, duty-free and ceiling-free tariff treatment has been given to these countries with respect to all products covered by the Japanese GSP scheme with only three exceptions. As at the end of 1984 the three exceptions were as follows:

		GSP	LDC treatment (1984)
15.15-2	beeswax	7.5% (under ceiling)	7.5% (under ceiling)
57.06	jute yarn	4% (under ceiling)	4% (under ceiling)
57.10	jute fabrics	8% (under ceiling)	0% (under ceiling)

18. With effect from 1 April 1985 ceiling limitations on duty-free treatment for least-developed countries with regard to woven fabrics of jute or of other textile bast fibres (CCCN 57.10) imported into Japan were eliminated. On 1 April 1989 duty-free and ceiling-free treatment was given to beeswax (HS. No. ex 1521.90) and the ceiling control on Yarn of jute (HS No. 53.07) was eliminated. By virtue of this action, duty-free and ceiling-free treatment is given to least-developed countries in respect of all products covered by the Japanese GSP scheme without exception.

19. The government of New Zealand announced on 24 December 1984 certain changes to its GSP scheme effective from 1 July 1985. These changes were made in the context of a wide-ranging programme of industry restructuring and liberalization of the country's import policy by the replacement of import licensing with a system based on tariffs.

20. The changes include the provision of duty-free access for all products for all least-developed countries (as defined by the United Nations). According to the communication -

"... there is provision for limited exceptions to be made to this measure as part of the transitional adjustment process for the liberalisation of New Zealand's import régime. Any exclusions[1] will be very few in number and the final aim of this change is to make all tariff items duty-free for LLDCs. The New Zealand Government considers that this measure is a positive and necessary response to the invitation to all Contracting Parties at the 1982 Ministerial Meeting to: 'further improve GSP or m.f.n. treatment for products of particular interest to least-developed countries, with the objective of providing fullest possible duty-free access to such products."

21. It may also be recalled that the New Zealand GSP scheme has a provision for cumulative rules of origin and contains no specific safeguard mechanism.

22. Since 1978 all exports of least-developed countries into Norway enjoy duty-free access under the Norwegian GSP scheme regardless of whether they are covered by the positive or negative list applicable to other beneficiaries. No quantitative ceilings are attached to this duty-free treatment. The Norwegian GSP scheme also includes the principle of cumulative treatment regarding rules of origin. Imports are, however, not exempt from any general quantitative restrictions or import charges imposed by the Norwegian authorities. With effect from 15 July 1987, all the countries on the UN list of least-developed countries are covered by the special preferential scheme of Norway.

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[1]The exceptions from this action covered baler twine (ex59.04) and certain items falling within Schedule 3 of SPARTECA, including passion fruit products (ex08.10); coconut cream (ex21.07); lime juice (ex20.07); articles of apparel (ex chapter 61); and footwear (ex chapter 64).

23. The revised GSP scheme of Poland which entered into force on 1 January 1989 accords duty-free treatment to all exports from the least-developed countries. The scheme does not contain any specific restrictions or limitations. The preferential rates of duty are applied to commodities imported directly from developing countries and transported directly from those countries and are granted upon the presentation of a proper certificate of origin.

24. As a result of changes introduced into the Swedish GSP scheme with effect from 1 February 1987, all imports originating in all least-developed countries are accorded duty-free treatment povided that the notification procedure under the Swedish scheme has been fulfilled.

25. Since July 1982 exports from the least-developed countries into Switzerland enjoy special tariff treatment within the framework of the GSP. Duty-free treatment is accorded to exports of industrial products for which other developing countries are granted only limited preferences namely: textiles and clothing (chapters 50-63 of the CCCN); footwear with outer soles of leather and composition leather, footwear (other than footwear falling within heading 64.01) with outer soles of rubber or artificial plastic material (CCCN 64.02); umbrellas (CCCN ex66.02); unwrought aluminium (CCCN 76.01); and primary cells and batteries (CCCN 85.03). This means that now all the industrial products of chapters 25-99 are free of customs duties, with the sole exception of goods subject to fiscal duties: mineral fuels CCCN headings 27.07, 27.09-11, ex 29.01, ex 29.04 and 37.07; films CCCN headings ex 38.14, ex 38.18, and ex 38.19; motor vehicles, engines and other components CCCN 87.02, 87.04 - 87.06 and ex 84.06.

26. In the agricultural sector duty-free treatment is accorded to forty-eight agricultural products of which twenty-four had not been part of the Swiss scheme of preferences. Among these agricultural products are groundnuts, cocoa powder and pineapples. The Swiss special treatment applies to all least-developed countries on the list of the UN.

27. The United States at the end of the Tokyo Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations accorded least-developed countries an advanced implementation of its tariff concessions. Under the Trade and Tariff Act (1984) of United States, least-developed countries are exempted from the competitive need rule in its GSP scheme.[1] The law extended the US GSP scheme until 4 July 1993 with some modifications. It may be recalled that duty- and quota-free treatment is granted on all products covered by the United States GSP scheme.

28. Yugoslavia has informed the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries that it has taken a number of measures providing for more favourable treatment in favour of least-developed countries. For example, import tariffs on exports from these countries have been almost eliminated with maximum remaining tariffs not more than three or four per cent; para-tariff measures are very limited or have been eliminated and non-tariff measures are not restrictive for these countries.

Rules of Origin

29. Some developed countries have taken certain measures with regard to the rules of origin element of their GSP schemes, in response to requests for more differential action, in this area, in favour of the least-developed countries. Canada employs the value-added criterion in determining the origin for the purposes of its GSP scheme and the minimum value addition required, i.e. 40 per cent of the ex-factory value for least-developed countries, as compared with 60 per cent for other GSP beneficiaries. Canada also allows cumulative origin globally among all GSP beneficiaries.

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[1]Beneficiaries of the US GSP scheme include thirty-eight countries on the UN list of least-developed countries as at the end of 1988. With effect from 1 July 1989, the Central African Republic and the Union of Myanmar had their benefits from the US scheme suspended indefinitely.

30. In the case of the EEC a system of derogation is used by which the EEC examines on a case-by-case basis, requests by least-developed countries for country waivers from the rules of origin of the Community GSP system. The overall orientation of the work in the UNCTAD Working Group on Rules of Origin tends towards greater simplification and harmonization. At recent sessions of the Working Group, preference-giving countries have expressed their willingness to give sympathetic consideration to "particular difficulties encountered by preference-receiving least-developed countries".

Export and Import Promotion Measures[1]

31. One of the guidelines on how to pursue actions toward facilitating trade of least-developed countries, adopted by CONTRACTING PARTIES and annexed to the Ministerial Declaration of 1982 speaks of the need to strengthen their trade promotion activities. Certain measures in this direction have been taken by some contracting parties.

32. A Canadian Trade Facilitation Office has been set up under the auspices of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), with the function, inter alia, of identifying specific companies in Canada who would be interested in buying from producers in the least-developed countries. Under the new Canadian development assistance policy a number of measures have been taken by the Government to assist least-developed countries develop their export potential. These include the reinforcement of CIDA's industrial cooperation programme, the creation of in-plant training facilities to encourage improvement in management skills and increase productivity in developing countries, increased financial help, as well as technical and vocational training etc.

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[1]This section has been based on information notified to the secretariat or brought directly or indirectly to its attention and is not supposed to be an exhaustive description of such measures.

33. Apart from the wide range of industry and trade promotion activities and measures undertaken in favour of the ACP countries within the context of the Lomé Convention alluded to above, some individual member countries of the EEC have special facilities for helping ACP countries promote their exports into their respective markets. Such facilities are provided by the Import Promotion Office of the Danish Chamber of Commerce, the French Centre for Foreign Trade, the Federal Office of Foreign Trade Information of the Federal Republic of Germany, the National Institute for Foreign Trade in Rome, the Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries in Rotterdam, and the Developing Countries Trade Agency in London.

34. A number of other contracting parties have similar facilities for aiding the exports of developing countries including the least-developed, such as: the Market Advisory Service of the Australian Department of Trade; the Customs Information and Development Aid Section of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber; the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry; the Finnish Import Promotion Office for Products from Developing Countries; the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce; the Israel Centre for Trade with Developing Countries; Japan External Trade Organization; the Developing Countries Liaison Unit of the New Zealand Department of Trade and Industry; the Norwegian Import Promotion Office for Products from Developing Countries; the Polish Chamber of Foreign Trade; the Romanian Office for the Promotion of Foreign Trade Relations with Developing Countries; the Swedish Import Promotion Office for Products from Developing Countries; the Trade Promotion Service in Favour of Developing Countries of the Swiss Office for Trade Promotion, etc.